

MINUTES OF THE BORDER CONVENTION
2010 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
held on Sunday, 10th April 2011
At The Roman Way Hotel, Watling Street, Cannock, Birmingham

1. Introduction.

The Meeting was opened at 10.40 a.m. by the Vice Chairman Ray Morgan and Secretary Colin Egner. The vice chairman welcomed all attendees and observers to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES for ABSENCE.

Were received from: - Jim Aitchison (President), George Eltringham (Chairman), Terry Gardner (Border Convention Committee), Ron Williams (North Wales BFCC)

3. APPOINTMENT OF TELLER. John Cox (Clwyd) was appointed as Teller. There were 16 clubs represented.

4. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2010 A.G.M. (11th April 2010)

Proposed Ivan Austin and seconded Malcolm Barnett as a true record.

5. MATTERS ARISING. None

6. CORRESPONDENCE.

The secretary Colin Egner said that most of his correspondence will come up in agenda items later in the meeting. He has received a letter from Ron Williams of North Wales BFCC asking for T Thomas and R Williams both of Waunfawr, North Wales to be removed from the judges list owing to travelling difficulties and age. The secretary will write to the two judges thanking them for their judging undertakings over the years. There were more items in Ron Williams letter, these will be dealt with as agenda items later in the meeting.

7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

The president, Jim Aitchison could not attend the meeting but he sent the following report for the members. He apologised for not attending the Border Convention AGM having got the dates mixed up. He said that last year the Border Convention sent out a survey of breeding results throughout the Border Fancy and of around 500 fanciers only 23 participated and considering the work put into the survey by the secretary Colin Egner the participating level was shocking. It would appear that there is no problem in breeding border canaries. Colin has suggested that he will again try the survey this year and he hopes that the fanciers give a better response. He said that it saddens him to read that Birmingham Area Border Fancy is in danger of folding because they cannot find a secretary. He really hopes that they are successful in finding a secretary as we do not want to lose another club. Finally he said that although the Border Fancy appears to be in decline as regards numbers the quality seen at shows is getting better each year.

8. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

In the absence of the Chairman George Eltringham Ray Morgan said a few words. He said that he believes that George is an excellent chairman and very honest in his approach to all things. He said that it was sad that he could not make it to the AGM. On behalf of George he gave his best wishes to the committee for all of the work undertaken in the past year pointing out that the work undertaken by the committee is on behalf of the Border Fancy and they do a good job under the circumstances. He wished George a speedy recovery.

9. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Colin Egner thanked the members for their help over the past year, especially Malcolm Scott for his assistance and Don Harrison for an excellent Journal. There had been lots of good feedback at the Stafford Bird Sale in March from the fanciers who were seeing the Journal for the first time. He thought that the 2010 show season had spread the Best in Show awards across a few more exhibitors which was better for the competition side and good for the fancy encouraging others to improve their standard. The other main item of his report was the fertility report which will be discussed later.

10. JOURNAL EDITOR'S REPORT

Don Harrison said that he was pleased with the quality of the Journals over the last year but still worries about receiving articles and general content for Journals. He commented on the response to his article on the offer by the Parrot Society inviting a Border Section to their annual show at Stafford in October. He said that he received some harsh and he thought, unfair criticism over the article, when he was just reporting the facts as sent to him by the Parrot Society. He believes that one of the aspects of his role as Journal Editor is to promote discussion and opinion on the fancy. He said that there are some specialist clubs who never send articles of any kind for the Journal, but putting these few problems to one side he has had a good year with the Journal. Ray Morgan asked the attending delegates to go back to their clubs to ask any of their members to provide an article for Don for the Journal. Because of adverse comments Don has removed the "Editorial" from page 3 of the impending Journal. John Cox and Malcolm Scott both outlined to Don the importance of this page and urged him to restart the Editorial page with the next Journal, Don agreed to do so.

11. PUBLICITY OFFICER'S AND WEBSITE REPORT

Andrew Triolo informed the meeting that the regime at Cage and Aviary Birds has changed and he is hoping to go down to meet the new team when the opportunity arises. The "pop-up" banner has now been completed and was on display at the meeting presenting a very grand exhibit with the heading of the Border Convention, the 2005 model, the web site address and a brief outline of the main aspects of the Border Convention. Andrew also has obtained a leaflet holder for the display for sales or promotions of leaflets, rule books, judges booklets, updates etc. He also has had printed flyer style copies of the pop-up banner for handouts at shows, especially National type shows. Andrew then updated the meeting with the current position of the new web site. He said that we will be retaining the existing web site address but it will be a new web site with the existing pages being replaced over the next few months. Andrew thought that the exact content of the web site should be discussed at the next committee meeting, the basics will be in place by then but there are a number of options for future development.

12. PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF 2010 ACCOUNTS.

John Cox informed the meeting that it had again been a delight to examine the Border Convention accounts. the Treasurer, Malcolm Scott thanked John Cox and informed the meeting that to examine accounts can be a long and trying task which John performs exceedingly well. Malcolm explained some of the entries on the balance sheet, one particular one being donations received from various fanciers over the year. This amounted to £126.50 with £25.00 of this coming from Reg martin in lieu of sales of his Border Models. Reg donates every year to the Border Convention. Two other fanciers mentioned because of their ongoing generosity in donating every year are Fred Driscoll and Gary Burrows. The Balance Sheet showed a profit of £1,663.05 for 2010. Don Harrison queried non payment of Journal subscriptions which the treasurer explained that although at the beginning of April the number was standing at 120, many fanciers either pay at their own AGM or send their subscriptions with their ring order. The Journal will be going up in price for 2012, mainly because of rising postage costs.

Andrew Triolo queried the ring position which shows a poor return for the effort undertaken. The treasurer explained that rings have gone up in price this year as well as postage charges but these will probably only mean that we still just hold our own. It was proposed by Andrew Triolo and seconded by Brian Martins that the accounts were a true record, this was carried.

13. SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2010.

It was proposed that because of an increase last year effective from this year, that there should be no changes to the club affiliation fees. This was agreed by the delegates. Therefore the Border Convention club affiliation will remain at £25.

14. HONORARIUMS.

The current honorariums were read out by Ray Morgan, It was proposed by Ivan Austin and seconded by Jeff Pearce that the honorariums remain the same. This was carried. The honorariums for 2011 will therefore be as follows:-

Secretary	£300	-	Colin Egner
Treasurer	£150	-	Malcolm Scott
Journal Editor	£800	-	Don Harrison
Ring Scheme Organiser	£200	-	Malcolm Scott

15. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

	<u>2010 Elected</u>	<u>2011 Nominations</u>	<u>2011 Elected</u>
President:	Mr J Aitchison	No nomination	Mr J Aitchison
Chairman:	Mr. George Eltringham.	No nomination.	Mr. George Eltringham
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. Ray Morgan.	No nomination.	Mr. Ray Morgan
Secretary:	Mr C Egner.	No nomination	Mr C Egner
Treasurer:	Mr. Malcolm Scott.	No nomination	Mr. Malcolm Scott
Journal Editor:	Mr. Don Harrison.	No nomination	Mr. Don Harrison
Journal Distributor:	Mr Ivan Austin	No nomination	Mr Ivan Austin
Minutes Secretary:	Mr. Malcolm Scott.	No nomination.	Mr. Malcolm Scott
Publicity Officer:	Mr. Andrew Triolo.	No nomination	Mr. Andrew Triolo
Auditor:	John Cox MBE esq.	No nomination	Mr. John Cox MBE
Canary. Council:	Messrs. Andrew Triolo. & Colin Egner	No nomination	Messrs. Andrew Triolo & Colin Egner
Ring Scheme Sec :	Mr. Malcolm Scott.	No nomination	Mr. Malcolm Scott
NCA Representative	Mr. Andrew Triolo.	No nomination	Mr. Andrew Triolo
Novice Co-ordinator:	Mr Bob Norman	No nomination	Mr Bob Norman
Web Site Manager	Mr. Andrew Triolo	No nomination	Mr. Andrew Triolo

It was pointed out that a new president is due for election next year (2012) and therefore nominations are required from the clubs.

Convention Committee: Messrs. George Eltringham (Chairman), Ray Morgan (Vice-Chairman), Jim Aitchison (President), Don Harrison (Journal Editor), Colin Egner (Secretary), Malcolm Scott (Treasurer), Malcolm Barnett (Past (President), Syd Moyers (Past President), Robert Norman (Past President), Andrew Triolo (Web Site Manager, CC and NCA Rep), Brian Martin, Ivan Austin, Terry Gardner, Howard Kershaw, Mark Alexander, Phil Dewland, Jeff Pearce.

17. MANDATES There were no mandates to be voted upon.

18. JUDGES A & B PANEL.

Panel A

Mr. Pompeo Mattia, via Turati, 4 Aquino Italy
Mr. A. Golia Virgilie 7 Ducentia, Italy

Border Canary Club Of Italy/Northants B.F.F.C.
Green, Cinnamon and White BFCC

Panel B

Mr. M. King 31 East St. Wareham Dorset

Wessex B.F.C.C

There were no objections to any of the proposed judges on either the “A” or “B” panels and Colin Egner will write to the new judges and inform them of the result.

Colin has recently received a judge’s applications from Wexford BFCC, he will write back to the club secretary asking for their comments on the application form and the application will have to be put forward for next year. Brian Martin suggested that we remind clubs that judges application forms have to be sent to the Border Convention by the 31st December to be included in the following year’s AGM for acceptance.

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Malcolm Barnett informed the meeting that the Turkish Border Club wished to affiliate to the Border Convention. Malcolm will supply the name and address of the secretary to Colin Egner.

National Cage Bird Show (Stafford Show) – This item was brought to the AGM because the committee felt that they needed some direction for the way forward on this subject. Colin Egner said that without direction from the clubs the subject will not be handled democratically. The secretary said that there had originally been a letter from the Parrot Society asking if there would be a Border Section at their show at the Stafford Showground which they now refer to as the New National. The Border Convention’s problem is that there are three shows on the same weekend as the Parrot Society Show, namely Northants B&FFCC, Doncaster BFCC and Cornish BFCC. Malcolm Barnett said that Northants and the IBBA are totally against the show because of the potential impact on entries, although he believes that a National Show is a good idea and should have a Border Section but how we achieve this is a problem. Ray Morgan believes that the Border Shows must come first but fanciers have the choice of which show they attend. He would like as many opinions as possible so that the committee have direction as to the way forward. He also thought it would be a solution if one of the Border Clubs took the Stafford Show as their new show venue. Malcolm Barnett said that as Birmingham Area BFC were struggling at the moment they may wish to run their show at Stafford and the other clubs would then have the option to take the Birmingham date. Brian Martin updated the meeting with the current situation regarding Birmingham and he said that the club were struggling for administrators and if no one could run the existing show no one could run the new show. Don Harrison said that realistically in 5 to 10 years a few clubs will have ceased due to lack of support and administrators and it would be short sighted not to be involved with a New National and financially the Stafford Show presents itself as a very viable proposition. It was said that to not support the National would mean that we are not promoting the Border Canary which as Andrew Triolo pointed out is the main theme of the Aims and Objectives in the Rule Constitution. Phil Dewland said that we must support our clubs and if anyone wanted to support the National that was their choice but it would be to the detriment of the clubs whose show is on the same weekend. Andrew Triolo said the best way to encourage newcomers to the Border Fancy is to go to shows like the New National and advertise the Border Canary, this give newcomers the option of starting with Borders. Tim Ward asked if it was possible for Northants to run their show at the New National and Colin Egner replied that this idea had been discussed at Northants but because of the distance it was not practical. Colin thought that if the new National went ahead with a Border section the clubs which have their shows on the same weekend will be back next year trying to find a new date. John Cunningham said that the Cornish BFCC were too far away to be impacted by the National and he thought it would make no difference to them. Ray Morgan said that when the Agenda for the AGM was sent out to the clubs it included a letter from Colin Egner asking for local discussion on this subject with a view to reporting back to the AGM. Howard Kershaw said that Wessex CBS had no interest in running the show at the National but if the Border Convention could find somebody to run it that would be fine. Malcolm Barnett said that Northants and IBBA were not happy with the dates. Doncaster BFCC said they also were not interested in running the show and it could impact on their Saturday show. Don Harrison thought that if we think to the future, clubs are going to close and the National will be a good option then. Colin Egner said that people who run shows want them nearby for convenience. It was again voiced that if any club took the National on their own show date will become available, also fanciers have the right to attend whatever show they wish. Ray Morgan thought that one option available was to ask the specialist clubs (like Colin already has done) for their view on the New national and possibly even a vote. Colin Egner asked if anyone attending the AGM would be willing to run the Border section at the New National. Ivan Austin and Jeff Pearce said that they would be willing to run the show but only if it is run by the Border Convention and with agreement from the Border Fancy. Ivan asked the question – “Is the Border Convention supporting the New National?”, without an answer to this there is no way forward. John Cox thought that this subject should go back to members for decision. He said that the Border Fancy is dying and he believes that most do not want it to die and so why not show the bird fanciers of this country the Border Canary and put on a showpiece at the biggest show in the country. He said that we must at least try and if it is a failure then we can abandon it but we must at least try. One view was that if we go ahead with a section at the

National the other clubs will just have to reorganise their own shows. Don Harrison said that we could use the next issue of the Journal to include a letter to the fancy to ask if they support or not the Border Convention in putting a Border section on at the Stafford Show (New National), Malcolm Barnett said that it would be nice if the show was a Border Convention Show to promote the Border Canary with support from the clubs. Ray Morgan said a letter would provide the views of the fancy. Colin Egner asked the meeting how many of the delegates had a club vote on this subject from the original letter he sent out to the secretaries, there were only a few replies.

Don Harrison then proposed that the Border Convention drafts a letter for inclusion in the next issue of the Journal (due out in the next 2 weeks) to see what the fancy in general thought about the idea of the Border Convention supporting the New National at the Stafford show. Malcolm Barnett seconded this proposal. The response from the fancy to be via either a telephone call to Colin Egner, Malcolm Scott or Don Harrison or by letter or email to same three committee members. The amount of support given to a Border Convention show at the Stafford Show is an unknown quantity and concern was expressed as to the number of exhibits that would turn up.

Rosettes –

Don Harrison said that at the last committee meeting he had suggested that only birds wearing Border Convention rings should be eligible for the Border Convention Rosettes. Colin Egner had included this question along with the broader question of do the clubs still want the Border Convention Rosettes in a list of topics for discussion when the AGM agenda was sent to the secretaries. A number of delegates reported that their clubs had said that they would like to continue with the rosettes but for best Champion and Best Novice (or whatever the clubs gave the rosettes for), no consideration to be taken of Border Convention rings. Don Harrison said that most Specialist Club Show schedules did not contain the Border Convention rosettes and Show Returns did not say who had won the Border Convention rosettes. It was suggested that Colin Egner asks the clubs to include the Border Convention rosettes in their Show Schedule when he send the rosettes out but to achieve this the rosettes will need to be sent out early. Malcolm Barnett proposed that the rosettes stay as at present, i.e. two Border Convention Rosettes for each Specialist Club Show, Andrew Triolo seconded the proposal and the proposal was carried.

Avian Fertility Study –

Colin Egner reported to the meeting the results of the Border Convention Fertility Survey. He firstly thanked the fanciers who had completed the survey and pointed out that this was only 23 people. Colin then read out an analysis of the statistics from the survey returns, - the average number of eggs laid per hen was 8, the percentage of eggs hatching was 35.6%, of those failing to hatch 7.7% were dead in shell and 56.5% were clear, 24.3% of eggs were hatched and produced chicks which were weaned, of the chicks which hatched 31.5% died (21% at 0-5 days, 9.5% at 5-15 days, 1% at 15 days plus), the average chicks per hen on the survey was 1.94%. Further figures were given on averages per hen. Colin said that he would like to do the survey again this year but hoped for a better response. He said that fanciers do not in general carry out their own fertility statistics and therefore these statistics would help. He said that he would like to write to anyone who has had excellent results to see if they could provide details to help those who are struggling, this would be done with complete anonymity.

Journal -

Don Harrison informed the meeting that he produces the Journal on his computer using a package called Quark Express. He said that his current version is out of date and not reliable any more and he needed a new version of the package which should cost £900 but he has a friend who can buy an up to date version for £99. It was proposed by Malcolm Barnett and seconded by Mark Alexander that we go ahead with this. The proposal was carried. Don said that he was disappointed by the number of judges show reports sent to him, it was generally thought that this situation will improve with use and 2011 will be monitored. Don also said that there were still a number of clubs who sent catalogues for show reports which have not been marked up. Andrew Triolo said that it had been mentioned at previous meetings that we could print a small amount of Fife details from the Border and Fife Shows. Don thought this would possibly bring in canary articles from Fife breeders which would be of interest to the Border fanciers. The small amount from the show reports would only be Best in Show, Best Novice and Best Champion, this was voted on and agreed.

Judges Training Scheme –

Colin Egner said that new champion exhibitors have approached him enquiring about the way forward for judging asking if there is a mentoring system. The current judges list was discussed and it was agreed that there were a number of judges who did not really qualify to stay on the panel for various reasons. It was agreed that all new judges appointed to the judges list do meet the requirements laid down in the rule book. Malcolm Barnett thought that more care should be taken by the clubs when putting new judges forward and also when picking judges for their annual show. Reg Martin showed the meeting the new Border Model that he is making which is more to the actual border shown than the previous one. Malcolm Barnett suggested that judges should take champion exhibitors who may wish to become judges in the future, with them and they should be allowed to stand beside the judge during judging. It could be explained to them why certain birds have been selected as winners. Colin said that we are losing judges faster than we are recruiting them, three new judges this year and 5 lost to the fancy. Lack of confidence is holding back some potential judges. Malcolm Barnett thought that we should go back to the committee for clarification of a way forward.

Andrew Triolo reported that the Canary Council have asked him to see if the border Convention have a list of any COM/European qualified judges. The question was also asked if judges who are qualified to judge under the IOM/COM rules would be automatically qualified to be included in the Border Convention Judges List. It was pointed out that to be included on the Border Convention Judges Panel the rules have to be followed, i.e. apply on the correct form and meet the judges requirements regarding experience, breeding and exhibiting. Andrew will report back to the Canary Council.

The Way Forward –

Colin Egner told the meeting that the future and progress of the Border Convention should be driven by the Specialist Clubs but no directives as such have been forthcoming. Malcolm Scott expressed concern over the possibility of non attendance at the AGM because of a lack of mandates, lack of new judges and no direction towards the future. He said that if there was very little on the AGM agenda then the clubs would stop coming and that would be a disaster. There were only 16 clubs in attendance at this years AGM, less than 50%. Malcolm Barnett proposed that the Border Convention holds a raffle whereby all clubs in attendance at the AGM would go into the raffle and the winner would receive £100 towards their annual show. The proposal was seconded by Don Harrison. This was carried.

20. DATES OF NEXT MEETING

Alternative venues were discussed but it was thought that to attract the optimum number of delegates the current area in the Midlands was best suited.

The date of the next Border Convention Committee Meeting is Sunday, 14th August 2011

Border Convention AGM for 2012 - Sunday in April 2012

The meeting closed at 2.00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT (25):

R Morgan (Chairman), C Egner (Secretary/ Northants B&FCC), M. Scott (Treasurer, Northern BFCC), D. Harrison (Journal Editor, Northern Ireland BFCC); A. Triolo (Publicity Officer/East of England BFCC), P. Dewland (Welsh BFCC), J. Beddows (Border Counties BFCC), R. Martin (Birmingham Area Border), B. Martin (Birmingham Area Border), I. Austin (North Staffs BFCC), J Pearce (North Staffs BFCC), J. Cox (Teller/Clwyd Border), W Wilson (Clwyd Border), H. Kershaw (Wessex Border), J Sykes ((Merseyside BFCC), R Norman (British BFCC), T. Ward (British BFCC), J Balme (Doncaster BFCC), T Mooney (Doncaster BFCC)., M Barnett (IBBA), A Smith (Birmingham ABC), L Smith (Birmingham ABC), M Alexander (Nottinghamshire BFCC), John Cunningham (Green, Cinnamon & White BFCC), A Quinn (Green, Cinnamon & White BFCC),

Delegates representing 17 clubs were present:

Birmingham ABC, Border Counties, British Border FCC, Cornish BFCC, Clwyd BFCC, Doncaster BFCC, East of England BFCC, IBBA , Merseyside BFCC, Northampton B&FCC, Northern BFCC, Northern Ireland BFCC, North Staffs BFCC, Nottingham BFCC, Green Cinnamon and White BFCC, Wessex BFCC, Welsh BFCC,

Clubs Not in Attendance:

Border FCC, Border Canary Ass., Cornish BFCC, Cumbria BFCC, Cleveland BFCC, Fauldhouse B&FCC, Leicester BFCC, Midland Counties BFCC, North of Scotland BFCC, North Wales BFCC, Scottish All Border FCC, Southern BFCC, Sussex & Kent BFCC, West of Scotland BCA, West Wales BFCC,
And all clubs abroad.